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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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Combined Issue  
January 3-4, 2004

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Ankara to ask Armitage about the PKK - Milliyet 1/3  
US signals tripartite security summit on PKK - Vatan  
FM Gul to Israel to offer mediation on Middle East peace -  
Aksam 1/3  
Ankara launches Middle East effort - Milliyet  
Gul to Israel on peace mission - Milliyet 1/3  
Mahmud Abbas, Hamas bargain on ending 'intifadah' - Sabah  
Terrorist gunmen execute 5 Iraqi policemen - Sabah  
Iranian Press: US violates Iranian airspace - Aksam  
Bush's predecessors to lead US aid efforts in south Asia -  
Hurriyet  
US plans lifelong detention for terror suspects - Sabah  
Bush gives \$1 billion to religious groups in US - Sabah  
Iraq war, Bush re-election make Americans more pessimistic -  
Aksam  
FM Gul to ask Jordan to extradite Uzans - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS  
Ankara warns Armitage on Kirkuk, Iraqi elections - Zaman  
FM Gul urges Armitage to maintain balances in Kirkuk -  
Cumhuriyet  
Gul to Israel to repair damage in bilateral relations -  
Cumhuriyet 1/3  
Gul on sensitive visit to Israel - Radikal  
Gul to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders - Zaman  
Gul: Peace in the Middle East a task for Turkey - Yeni Safak  
Papadopoulos rejects direct trade with Turkish Cypriots -  
Yeni Safak  
Gul: US should do more to force Greek Cypriots to compromise  
- Yeni Safak  
Iraq's election pains - Radikal  
Turkish Red Crescent sends aid and rescue team to Bangkok -  
adikal  
Annan says south Asia will recover in 10 years - Radikal

BRIEFING

Deputy SecState Armitage visits Ankara: Visiting US Deputy  
Secretary of State Richard Armitage proposed trilateral

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security talks on the question of the PKK presence in  
northern Iraq, papers report. US diplomats said the meeting  
would take place in January and would bring together Turkey,  
the United States and officials from the Iraqi interim  
government. Papers commented that Armitage attempted to  
put US-Turkey relations back on track. FM Abdullah Gul  
signaled that Ankara also wanted to turn a page in its  
relations with the United States: 'The US-Turkey  
relationship is above everything,' Gul said. 'It is long-  
standing and broad,' he added. The Turkish side reportedly  
warned Armitage over efforts to change the demographic  
structure of Kirkuk in advance of the Iraqi elections in  
late January. Armitage told Gul that many Iraqis, including  
Turkmen and Kurds, had been disadvantaged by Arabization  
policies in the past. He added that this situation must be  
corrected within the framework of Iraq's Temporary  
Administrative Law. FM Gul noted that Turkey is speaking to  
all Iraqi groups to encourage them to take part in the  
election. He said the most important group, the Sunni  
Arabs, should not be left out of the election process.  
Armitage reportedly agreed with this view and encouraged as  
wide a participation as possible in the election process.  
"Yeni Safak" reports that Armitage pressed Parliament  
Speaker Bulent Arinc on recent statements made by  
Parliamentary Human Rights Committee Chairman Mehmet

Elkatmis in which the US operation in Fallujah was characterized as a 'genocide.' Arinc said that he did not agree with Elkatmis' statement, but said the Turkish people cannot understand how the United States occupation, which was intended to bring democracy to Iraq, had resulted in the deaths of 100,000 civilians. Armitage reportedly asked Arinc why the Turks did not speak out more forcefully against Saddam's regime. Arinc replied that the Turkish parliament 'had not remained silent' after the massacre of Kurds in Halabja. 'We have always said that Saddam was a dictator,' Arinc noted. "Milliyet" reports that FM Gul also urged Armitage to ensure additional US steps to break the isolation of Turkish Cypriots, especially on the issue of direct flights to Ercan airports. Gul later noted that the US had 'taken some positive steps' in this direction.

FM Gul due in Israel, Palestine: FM Abdullah Gul on Monday left for a four-day trip to Israel, Palestine and Jordan in an effort to discuss ways in which Ankara can help the stalled peace process. The visit is aimed at mending ties harmed by Turkish PM Erdogan's strong criticism of Israeli policies against the Palestinians. 'It is an important duty for Turkey to contribute to the Middle East peace process,' Gul told the Turkish press before his departure. 'Turkey wants Syria and Lebanon to take part in the peace process as well,' Gul replied to a question about whether Turkey could play a mediating role. Gul voiced hope that the January 9 Palestinian elections will be 'transparent, democratic and successful.' Gul is scheduled to meet Israel's President Moshe Katsav, PM Ariel Sharon and FM Silvan Shalom on Tuesday and Palestinian leaders on Wednesday. Papers expect Gul to focus on bilateral ties between Turkey and Israel, which cooled last year after PM Erdogan blamed the Israeli leadership for applying 'state terrorism' against Palestinians. After wrapping up talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Gul will travel to Amman to attend a January 6 conference of Iraq's neighbors. Before departing for Israel, Gul told "Hurriyet" that both Israel and Palestine have asked for a more proactive Turkish role in the peace process. 'There is a positive atmosphere for peace for the first time after Camp David - now is the time for everybody to work for peace,' Gul stressed. Gul emphasized that his hopes were fueled by the Israeli decision to withdrawal from Gaza and the prospect that Shimon Peres will join the Israeli government.

US-PKK 'bargaining' in northern Iraq: The pro-Kurdish "Newroz" webpage claimed that a US delegation met with members of the PKK in Kaladiza near Kandil Mountain in northern Iraq last week. US soldiers reportedly flew to the meeting site in three US helicopters. According to the website, the sides have held three meetings thus far. The Americans reportedly asked the PKK not to harass American planes during reconnaissance flights over the region. The website's report showed up as front-page news in today's left-leaning "Cumhuriyet."

Turkey, Israel, US joint rescue exercise: Turkey, Israel and the United States are to hold a joint naval search and rescue exercise in mid-January, Monday papers report. As a result of the exercises, elements of the three naval forces that regularly operate in the Mediterranean will be able to provide humanitarian aid and more effective responses to actual maritime emergencies.

Turkish military warns about 'missionary' activities: The Turkish military has prepared a report on missionary activities in Turkey, "Zaman" reported on December 31. The report claims that Protestant missionaries aim to make the country 10 percent Christian by 2020, and are focusing their attention mainly on Kurds and Alevis in Turkey.

Gul will ask Jordan to deport Uzans: On the last stop of his current Middle East tour, FM Abdullah Gul will reportedly ask Jordan to deport Turkish businessmen Kemal Uzan and his son Hakan, who have allegedly taken refuge in Jordan. Gul will ask Amman to hand the Uzans over to Turkey, where they face serious charges of corruption, fraud, and embezzlement in their dealings with the state and in the banking sector.

Battle for CHP Leadership Heats Up: The opposition CHP disciplinary board voted 8-7 yesterday to reject a proposal supported by party leader Deniz Baykal to expel Sisli (Istanbul) Mayor Mustafa Sarigul from the party. Sarigul has been campaigning for months urging the CHP to replace Baykal as party leader. Baykal charged that the vote in the disciplinary board had been the result of bribes paid to some of the members. He said that the CHP would hold an extraordinary party conference before the end of January to determine the leadership of the party.

Pharmaceutical giants press Turkey to comply with international rules: Turkey is under growing pressure from the EU and the US over the generic production of medicines by Turkish firms, "Radikal" reports. Turkish pharmaceutical

firms believe that ending generic medicine production in Turkey, as the EU has called for, will result in skyrocketing prices and disruptions to Turkey's health system. International pharmaceutical giants operating in Turkey suffer \$140 million in losses every year, according to a 2003 study by McKinsey research.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

? Iraq/Armitage Visit  
? Ukraine

#### "Problematic Relations with the US"

Mustafa Balbay wrote in the social democrat-opinion maker "Cumhuriyet" (1/4): "Even though Armitage denied speculation that the US gave special assurances to northern Iraqi groups in a letter from Presidnet Bush, there are certain facts about northern Iraq which cannot possibly be ignored. The north of Iraq constitutes the most secure area for the US, and American forces are now in the process of moving there. The work on the infrastructure for a military base near Kirkuk has been concluded. Groups in northern Iraq have been helpful in encouraging the US to take such steps. Ensuring the safety of northern Iraq, from the US point of view, would mean rendering ineffective all groups except for the Kurds. This is the basic reason behind recent American operations in and around Mosul. The Armitage visit took place in this atmosphere. .. Armitage made certain demands from Ankara. He asked that Turkey exert its influence over Sunni groups for greater participation in the election process, and he wants Turkey to use its influence over other 'neighbors' of Iraq. The visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister to Israel and Palestine is a positive step that should be extended toward other neighbors as well. All of this brings a worry to my mind. For years Turkey has played a role in efforts to 'decouple' northern Iraq from Baghdad. The US has used this opportunity to station its troops in northern Iraq. Now Turkey has been asked to play a role to create a permanent structure for the American occupation. Turkey has saved itself by opting out of the occupation, and let's hope it can also save itself from being a caretaker for the United States."

#### "The Winds of Separation in Ukraine"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (1/4): "The election victory of Yushchenko brought back the long-standing issue of separatism in Ukraine. The possibility of a newly emerging state remains a question. Along with Crimean separatism, which seeks reunification with Russia, there are separatist movements both in the south and the east. . Yushchenko will likely face strong opposition in his new term on a series of important political and economic issues. The strong winds of separatism, particularly the push toward reuniting Crimea with Russia, may gradually diminish, but a stronger autonomy for certain regions in Ukraine remains a distinct possibility. Crimea will most likely benefit from such an autonomous arrangement."

EDELMAN